

Architectura\ 1hreesome from the Nether\ands: Conference and Exhibitions

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Architectural Threesome from the Netherlands: Conference and Exhibitions

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CONFERENCE

POLDERGEIST: LANDSCAPE OF THE ARTIFICIAL

Critical Debates on Dutch Architecture and Urbanism

A Program of StoreFront for Art & Architecture organized by Bart Lootsma and Kyong Park

1 Housing, Urbanism, and the Politics of Culture

NOUD DE VREEZE

ANNE MIE DEVOLDER

ARNOLD REIJNDORP

CRISTINE BOYER *Moderator*

2 Density and Diversity: Towards an Urban Landscape

WEST 8 LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS {WIM KLOOSTERBOER}

MVRDV {WINY MAAS}

RAOUL BUNSCHOTEN / CHORA

DROST+ VAN VEEN

STAN ALLEN *Moderator*

CONFERENCE

APRIL 11 & 12, 10AM-6PM

The Cooper Union School of Art and Architecture, Great Hall, 7 East 7th. St.

ADMISSION PRICE: \$7/panel, \$10/day, \$15/full conference

3 Dutch Architecture: Between Local Conditions and Global Influences

KRISTIN FEIREISS

BART LOOTSMA

ROEMER VAN TOORN

KYONG PARK *Moderator*

4. Intelligent Objects for a Dynamic Environment

WIEL ARETS

BEN VAN BERKEL

NOX {LARS SPUYBROEK}

TON VENHOEVEN

GREG LYNN *Moderator*



THIS CONFERENCE HAS BEEN GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY Stimuleringsfonds voor Architectuur en Stedebouw in Netherlands

WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK The Consulate General of The Netherlands

EXHIBITION

LIMINAL BODIES: RAOUL BUNSCHOTEN/CHORA

*An outline for a new urban methodology of observation and intervention
presented through case study projects in a variety of cities.*

Projects include:

ALEXANDROV: THE RHETORIC OF WALKING
PARIS: LES (1) LOTS "EN DIFFUS"
BRUSSELS-ROTTERDAM, LES PHANTOM CITY
HELSINKI GATEWAY
LINZER ENTFALTUNGEN
ROTTERDAM HORIZONS AND FLOOD MYTH
BLACK SEA BUCAREST & STEPPING STONES

April 8 - May 24 (opening reception: April 11, 7-9 pm)

STOREFRONT FOR ART AND ARCHITECTURE

97 Kenmare St. NYC

GALLERY HOURS Tuesday-Saturday, 11-6 pm

2

EXHIBITION

MOBILE FORCES: BEN VAN BERKEL

Project

*Architectural designer and theorist Greg Lynn selects Dutch architect Ben van Berke/
to create an installation at Artists Space. Mobile Forces consists of models,
diagrammatic wallpaper and videos of animated computer designs.*

*The installation challenges limits of formalist architecture
and explores the crossroads between the emerging theoretical
and practical realities of high end technology.*

April 12-May 24 (opening reception: April 12, 6-8 pm)

ARTISTS SPACE

38 Greene St. NYC

GALLERY HOURS Tuesday-Saturday, 10-6 pm

MADE POSSIBLE, IN PART, BY CONTRIBUTIONS FROM the Public Fund for the Promotion
of Architectural Quality, the Netherland-America Foundation, the Consulate General
of the Netherlands, and the New York State Council on the Arts

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<https://archive.org/details/poldergeistlands00stor>

STOREFRONT

ART AND ARCHITECTURE

97 KENMARE STREET, NEW YORK, NY. 10012, U.S.A. TEL: 212.431.5795 FAX: 212.431.5755

April 2, 1997

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Exhibition: Raoul Bunschoten in collaboration with CHORA, Liminal Bodies
April 8 - May 24th: Opening Reception, April 11th, 7 - 9 p.m. Storefront

Conference: Poldergeist: Landscape of the Artificial, Critical Debates on Dutch Architecture and Urbanism
April 11-12th, 10-6p.m. Cooper Union

Storefront for Art & Architecture is pleased to announce two important upcoming events related to Dutch architecture: an exhibition of the acclaimed Dutch architect, **Raoul Bunschoten** in collaboration with the institute he founded, **CHORA** (Institute for Architecture and Urbanism, London) titled **Liminal Bodies**; a Conference to be held at Cooper Union titled **Poldergeist: Landscape of the Artificial**, discussing the contemporary situation of Dutch architecture, planning and urbanism vis a vis their evolution and integration into the European Economic Community (EEC).

"Poldergeist: Landscape of the Artificial", Critical Debates on Dutch Architecture and Urbanism, conceived by both Kyong Park, Director at Storefront and Dutch critic, Bart Lootsma, offers the public a meaningful exposure to the context and challenges that confront Dutch architecture and urbanism today. By examining the unique history of Dutch urban development and its current state, a new paradigm may emerge for new architectural and urbanistic solutions that could have a broad impact, not only in Europe, but the United States as well.

The Dutch situation presents interesting insights and lessons. Historically there had been a strong tradition of national planning, urbanism and architecture in which the Dutch government worked closely with architects, planners and designers, particularly in the field of social housing. As a result of the developments within the European community and global economy over the past decade that has witnessed a shift away from a nation state to notions of regionalism and expansion, housing in Holland is no longer subsidized by the state. This represents a remarkable situation given the fact that 70% of the built environment in Holland, was constructed after WWII within this collaboration between government and architects/urban planners and designers. The Dutch are now confronted with the challenge of finding new opportunities and potentials given this situation. There needs to be a

new adaptation and repositioning. The Conference therefore, comes at a timely and important historical moment and provides the opportunity to discuss what the challenges are and what the applications could be not just for Holland, but for other European and American situations. Perhaps new models can be suggested that are applicable to international urban centers.

Participants include Noud de Vreeze, Anne Mie Devolder, Arnold Reijndorp, Kristin Feireiss, Bart Lootsma, Roemer van Toorn, West 8 Landscape Architects (Wim Kloosterboer), MVRDV (Winy Maas), Drost & Van Veen, Raoul Bunschoten, Wiel Arets, Ben van Berkel, NOX (Lars Spuybroek), Ton Venhoeven. **Modertors** include Christine Boyer, Greg Lynn, Stan Allen, and Kyong Park.

In connection with this Conference, Storefront will publish a book in collaboration with Princeton Architectural Press on the event's proceedings as well as including other contextual essays. The editor will be Bart Lootsma.

For more information contact Paola Morrongiello at 212 431 5795

STOREFRONT

ART AND ARCHITECTURE

97 KENMARE STREET, NEW YORK, NY, 10012, U.S.A. TEL: 212.431.5795 FAX: 212.431.5755

CONFERENCE

"Poldergeist : Landscape of the Artificial"

Critical Debates on Dutch Architecture and Urbanism

Location: Cooper Union, New York

April 11 and 12, 1997

The contemporary situation of Dutch architecture, planning and design represents exceptional conditions that contain vital suggestions and thorough responses to the changing landscape of its cities, towns and larger regions. The highly coordinated level of national commitment to these fields, combined with the significant work of a number of critics and practitioners adds up to a nationwide achievement. Ironically, for New Yorkers and the American architectural community, the manifold success of Dutch architecture is linked to the phenomena of a single individual. Rem Koolhaas' recent exhibition at New York's Museum of Modern Art and his prolific writing have created an international star, who seems to have emerged autonomously. In this symposium, Storefront for Art and Architecture in collaboration with the Dutch critic Bart Lootsma wants to present the context and challenges that confront Dutch architecture and urbanism today, and to give an international audience an in-depth look at the remarkable achievements in these fields as they compare and contrast to our own situation.

List of Participants

Dutch architects, critics and writers:

Noud de Vreeze
Anne Mie Devolder
Arnold Reijndorp
Christine Boyer (moderator)
Wim Kloosterboer
Winy Maas
Simone Drost & Evelyn Van Veen
Raul Bunschoten
Ben van Berkel
Lars Spuybroek
Ton Venhoeven
Greg Lynn (moderator)
Kristin Feireiss
Bart Lootsma
Roemer van Toom
Wiel Arets
Stan Allen (moderator)

Format and Coordination

The symposium, to take place on April 11 and 12, 1997, will be organized into four panels. Each panel will be presented by 3 to 4 Dutch architects, landscape architects, critics and writers and American architects and critics as moderators, who will set the stage for the panel, introducing the speakers and framing their work.

Issues of the symposium

Planning tradition

Holland is experiencing a period of great expansion. This land mass of 42.000 square kilometers has fifteen to sixteen million inhabitants, a population density comparable with that of Japan. More than seventy percent of the built environment dates from after the Second World War, more than in any other country in Western Europe. Even the landscape itself is a new one, not only the large polders, dams and dikes, but also a large portion of the existing agricultural land has been drastically reorganized and reshaped. The Dutch landscape is a hundred per cent man made; even 'nature' parks have been designed and planned by the central government. Until recently, social housing and urban extensions have been largely planned and financed by the government as well.

Congestion and change

Now that forced by the continuous growth of the population, the state is planning to build between 800,000 and 1,000,000 extra homes before the year 2005, a new awareness of this situation is beginning to grow. Bit by bit Holland is becoming congested. That is especially the case with the so-called 'Green Heart' in the middle of the 'Randstad', the ring-shaped metropolis formed by the cities of Amsterdam, Haarlem, Leiden, The Hague, Rotterdam, Gouda and Utrecht. All governmental planning memoranda are agreed on the preservation of this green area, but nevertheless it is under heavy pressure because of the need to build houses.

This problem is occurring at the very moment when the state is in the process of surrendering its traditional supervisory function over the planning developments. Under pressure of the growing number of public inquiries, this administrative task is becoming fragmented. Besides, starting in 1994 social housing has no longer been subsidized. Housing corporations are now obliged to compete on the market unassisted. In this whole process, the state has deprived itself from some important planning instruments.

Although the Dutch practice is still far removed from the American practice, both systems have come closer to each other and it would be interesting to discuss new possible planning solutions for the new problems Holland is facing. On the other hand, the quality of the work of the youngest generation

of Dutch architects and urbanists is largely due to the changing situation, forcing them to come up with solutions that might be interesting for the Americans as well.

Theory and Practice

For a large majority of American design professionals the Dutch situation is enviable, because of the government support and the significant number of building projects. Dutch architecture and urban planning are active and respected, so active in fact that there is sometimes little time to theorize on its directions. The converse is often true of the same fields in America, which are frequently mired in circumstances that leave time for theory but little opportunity for practice. Storefront for Art & Architecture believes this symposium will invigorate the American audience through the sheer intelligence of the participants' work, as well as form the basis for a critical analysis of them.

Publication

In connection with this conference, Storefront for Art & Architecture will publish a book in collaboration with *Princeton Architectural Press* on the event's proceedings, as well as other contextual essays, documenting the results of the symposium. This book will be edited by Bart Lootsma.

Symposium

'Poldergeist, Contemporary Dutch Architecture'

At Cooper Union, April 11th-12th Friday, and Saturday 10am-6pm

StoreFront for Art & Architecture is pleased to announce an upcoming conference examining the Dutch paradigm vis à vis the American architectural model. The contemporary situation of Dutch architecture, planning and design represents exceptional conditions that contain vital suggestions and thorough responses to the changing landscape of its cities, towns and larger regions. The highly coordinated level of national commitment to these fields, combined with the significant work of a number of critics and practitioners adds up to a nationwide achievement. Ironically, for New Yorkers and the American architectural community, the manifold success of Dutch architecture is linked to the phenomena of a single individual. Rem Koolhaas' recent exhibition at New York's Museum of Modern Art and his prolific writing have created an international star, who seems to have emerged autonomously. In this symposium, StoreFront for Art & Architecture in collaboration with the Dutch critic Bart Lootsma intends to present the context and challenges that confront Dutch architecture and urbanism today, and will give an international audience an in-depth look at the remarkable achievements in these fields as they compare and contrast to our own situation.

PARTICIPANTS (*MODERATORS):

Wiel Arets	Bart Lootsma
Ben van Berkel	Greg Lynn*
Christine Boyer*	Winy Maas
Raul Bunschoten	Arnold Reyndorp
Anne Mie Devolder	Michael Sorkin*
Simone Drost &	Lars Spuybroek
Evelyn Van Veen	Roemer van Toorn
Kristin Feireiss	Ton Venhoeven
Adriaan Geuze	Noud de Vreeze

ISSUES OF THE SYMPOSIUM

PLANNING TRADITION

Holland is experiencing a period of great expansion. This land mass of 42,000 square kilometers has fifteen to sixteen million inhabitants, a population density comparable with that of Japan. Over seventy percent of the built environment dates from after the Second World War, more than in any other country in Western Europe. Even the landscape itself is a new one, including large polders, dams and dikes, are a major portion of the existing agricultural area which has been drastically reorganized and reshaped. The Dutch landscape is completely man made; even 'nature' parks have been designed and planned by the central government. Until recently, social housing and urban extensions have been largely planned and financed by the government as well.

CONGESTION AND CHANGE

Faced with continuous population growth, the state is planning to build between 800,000 and 1,000,000 homes before the year 2005, causing a new awareness of this situation to grow. Bit by bit Holland is becoming congested. That is especially the case with the so-called 'Green Heart' in the middle of the 'Randstad', the ring-shaped metropolis formed by the cities of Amsterdam, Haarlem, Leiden, The Hague, Rotterdam, Gouda and Utrecht. All governmental planning memoranda have agreed on the preserve of this green area; nevertheless, it is under heavy pressure because of the need to build houses.

This problem is occurring at the very moment when the state is in the process of surrendering its traditional supervisory function over planning developments. Under pressure from a growing number of public inquiries, this administrative task is becoming fragmented. In addition, since 1994 social housing has no longer been subsidized. Housing corporations are now obliged to compete on the market unassisted. In this process, the state has deprived itself of some important planning instruments.

Although the Dutch practice is still far removed from the American practice, both systems have come closer to each other, and it will be interesting to discuss possible planning solutions for the new problems Holland is facing. On the other hand, the quality of work produced by the youngest generation of Dutch architects and urbanists is largely due to the changing situation, forcing them to come up with solutions that might be interesting for the Americans as well.

THEORY AND PRACTICE

For a large majority of American design professionals, the Dutch situation is enviable because of the government support and the significant number of building projects. Dutch architecture and urban planning are active and respected, so active in fact that there is sometimes little time to theorize on its directions. The converse is often true of the same fields in America, which are frequently mired in circumstances that leave time for theory but little opportunity for practice. StoreFront for Art & Architecture believes this symposium will invigorate the American audience through the sheer intelligence of the participants' work, as well as form the basis for a critical analysis of this work.

This Symposium is supported by Stimulerings Fond voor Architectuur in Holland.

Recent Event

'Making History: 15 Minutes of Fame, Fortune, and Fax Machines'
February 4-February 11, 1997

Making History opened to a crowded gathering of design history enthusiasts. The fax performance was organized by The Research Center for Validity Testing and was created as a parody of the history making process in design. Fifteen hundred designers were contacted through an enormous E-mail, fax and regular mail solicitation to participate in this unusual demonstration. Designers were asked to fax their interpretation of their design practice as recorded Fifteen minutes prior to the exhibition's opening.

Following a fifteen minute interval complete with jeopardy-like soundtrack, the gallery received a overwhelming response from designers worldwide. Over two hundred faxes spooled from six fax machines, instantly documenting fifteen minutes of design history. Submissions to the exhibition included literal parodies of other exhibitions, designs by designers, some were very literal transmissions of work in progress, and still others so cryptic they could never be understood. Thanks to everyone who "Making History" make history.

News

Kyong Park, the founder and director of StoreFront for Art & Architecture, has been appointed as one of five commissioners to curate the '97 Kwangju Biennale, the 2nd International Biennale in Korea. Under the theme of "Unmapping the Earth," the biennale will be open from September 1 to November 27, 1997. It will be divided into five themes—Hybrid/Wood, Space/Fire, Power/Noise, Speed/Water, and Becoming/Earth—and each will be curated by a Commissioner. Kyong Park has been appointed as the Commissioner for the theme Space/Fire. Other commissioners are: Hans Szeemann from Switzerland, Richard Koshlioff the director of MOCA in Los Angeles, Sung Kyung from Seoul, and Bernard Maréchal from Paris.

Position for Hire

StoreFront for Art & Architecture seeks a full-time administrator to work Tuesdays through Saturdays. We are actively seeking candidates with strong administrative skills and solid organizational abilities. Knowledge of contemporary art and architecture is helpful. Responsibilities will include assisting with all aspects of programming, coordination and execution. Contact, Cristina Delgado at (212) 431.5795.

POLDERGEIST

LANDSCAPE OF THE ARTIFICIAL

Critical Debates on Dutch Architecture and Urbanism

Program

Friday, April 11

10.00 am Welcome —Kyong Park

10.15 am Introduction —Bart Lootsma

panel 1 Culture

Housing, Urbanism, and the Politics of

11.00 am **Noud de Vreeze**
Continuity and Change in Dutch Housing Policy and Urban Planning Since the
Beginning of the Century

11.30 am **Anne Mie Devolder**
Architecture International Rotterdam and Its Effects on City Planning

12.00 pm **Arnold Reijndorp**
New Map of The Netherlands: A Landscape of Projects

12.30 pm **Discussion moderated by Christine Boyer**

01.30 pm Break

panel 2 Landscape

Density and Diversity: Towards an Urban

02.30 pm **West 8 Landscape Architects (Wim Kloosterboer)**
800,000 Houses + A Void

03.00 pm **Raoul Bunschoten/ CHORA**
Urban Flotsam

03.30 pm **Drost + Van Veen**

04.00 pm **MVRDV (Winy Maas)**
Datascapes: Research by Architecture and Urbanism

04.30 pm Break

05.00 pm **Discussion moderated Stan Allen**

07.00 pm Opening Reception of Liminal Bodies
An Exhibition by Raoul Bunschoten /CHORA,
at StoreFront for Art and Architecture, 97 Kenmare Street, New York

Saturday, April 12

panel 3

Dutch Architecture: Between Local Conditions and Global Influences

10.00 am **Kristin Feireiss**
Dutch Architecture in a European Perspective

10.30 am **Bart Lootsma**
Talking About My Generation

11.00 am **Roemer Van Toorn**
Fresh Conservatism : Landscape of Normality

11.30 am **Discussion moderated by Kyong Park**

12.30 pm Break

panel 4

Intelligent Objects for a Dynamic Enviroment

01.30 pm **Wiel Arets**
Slowness and Multiplicity

02.00 pm **Ben Van Berkel**

02.30 pm **Lars Spuybroek NOX**

03.00 pm **Ton Venhoeven** Bike Correctness

03.30 pm Break

04.00 pm **Discussion moderated by Greg Lynn**

06.00 pm Opening Reception of Mobile Forces
An Exhibition by Ben van Berkel at Artists Space, 38 Greene Street, New York

Poldergeist

Why is there so much happening in Dutch architecture and urbanism at this moment? There is no reason to believe that there is more talent in Holland than anywhere else. Of course, there is a very strong tradition of national planning and architecture - notably in the field of public housing in Holland, which is quite different from most other countries. But exactly in this field there have been some enormous changes. Since a couple of years, public housing is no longer subsidized by the state, which means that the state is losing control over the production of public housing. The market forces are becoming more and more important because of this and also because of European and global economical developments that affect all countries- and particularly a small country like Holland. Also, there is a strong political tendency towards deregulation, that has to do with both political forces from inside Holland and from the need to adapt to European laws as a result of the EEC. The state withdraws itself.

Holland has to reshape itself from a nation state towards a region in Europe that can compete with other regions. The democratization process in society and a change in the legal system results in a different kind of law, more based on jurisprudence than on law making. The whole system of building regulations has recently been changed and has become more complex than it was before. There is the need to build 800,000 to 1,000,000 houses until the year 2005 in this new political, economical and legal context in a country that is already quite congested and which more than 70% of the built environment is constructed after the second world war and already has a population density that is the same as in Japan. It is clear to everyone that all this will change the country radically.

All these changes have taken place within just a few years. And, just as in other countries where there have been political changes, like Barcelona in post-Franco era, Basel, Berlin and Vienna after the disappearance of the iron curtain this results in a revival of architecture and urbanism or at least in changes in that field. So, in the case of Holland, these changes have not so much to do with Dutchness, although one might add that Dutch economy is quite strong at the moment. They have to do with the desire or the need to reposition and adapt the country toward the European Community and towards global, political and economical developments. The only Dutch aspect about this is the fact that it is the national parliament that decides about the laws within the borders of the countries, even if it is an adaptation to the laws outside.

The somewhat older Dutch architects, from the generation that is in their 40-50's, has always understood their task as being critical towards this kind of change. They strongly believe in the autonomy of architecture as a cultural bullwark of resistance toward these changes. They have great difficulties toward the recent changes where as the younger generation that is presented here at this conference sees it as a challenge. With a kind of masochist pleasure they dive into the new regulations and find the opportunities and potentials that are hidden in the new system. In that sense, because the changes that have rapidly taken place in Holland, and because they are of a global nature, there work is not necessarily Dutch. Holland can be seen as case study, a laboratory for a new mentality, for new architectural and urbanistic solutions that have a broader importance.

Bart Lootsma

Panel 1

NOUD DE VREEZE

Noud de Vreeze studied Architecture and housing at the Technical University, Delft. He wrote his Ph.D. on the history of public housing in the Netherlands: An analysis of the change of design principals since the end of the nineteenth century. He worked for several housing institutions and was a member of the editorial board of *Archis* magazine. In 1992 he became director of the National Foundation of Architecture, which is a financial fund of the national government to support the public interest in architectural quality. Currently, he is working with a group in Amsterdam : *De Architectengroep*.

ANNE-MIE DEVOLDER

Anne-Mie Devolder studied at the St. Lukas Gent, Belgium and at Technical University, Delft, Urban Studies. She taught at the Technical University Delft in architectural design (1977 - 1978), and was an urban designer at the Department of Urbanism of the City of Rotterdam (1978-1986). She has been a staff member at Architecture of the Rotterdam Arts Council since 1986, and some of the main exhibitions that she has organized are: Urbanism in Rotterdam 1040-1981(1981), Oud-Mathenesse, the white village of J.J.P.Oud (1986), Railway Track, Nine Concepts (1988), Three Squares, Six Designs(1988), and The Alexanderpolder, New Urban Frontiers (1993)

ARNOLD REIJNDORP

Arnold Reijndorp has graduated from the Faculty of Architecture of the Delft University of Technology. He has worked as a townplanner for the City of Rotterdam, with specific concentration in the urban renewal of the inner city districts. His interest in the social and cultural aspects of architecture and urbanism brought him to the Faculty of Sociology of the University of Amsterdam, where he is a lecturer in urban sociology. In the past five years, he has his own practice in the field of urban studies. He has published several books on the social and cultural changes in cities and numerous other articles, including in the Dutch architectural magazines such as *Archis* and *De Architect*. An essay concerning Dutch Urbanism was recently published in : *Designing for Ambivalence*. *New Urban Planning Briefs for a Changing Urban Context*, and *Landscape Architecture and Town Planning in The Netherlands 1993 -95* .

Panel 2

WIM KLOOSTERBOER + WEST 8

West 8 is comprised of an international team of 23 architects, town planners and industrial designers led by the landscape architect Adriaan Geuze. The designers for the landscape and urban space are informed by a deep-rooted optimism regarding the beauty and poetry for contemporary landscape, the landscape that is the expression of the vulnerability and euphoria of mass culture. The urban planning designs are always simple and concerned with space related to a large scale and to the landscape, against which is outlined the housing, the city dweller's fascination for the void, the unprogrammed space in which the citizen can open with a degree of freedom and where the climate and the seasons can play a part.

RAOUL BUNSCHOTEN / CHORA

Raoul Bunschoten received a Master Degree in Architecture from the Cranbrook Academy of Art, Michigan in 1983. In addition he studied at the Cooper Union, NYC, and the Eidgenössische Technische School, Zurich. Publications include preparations for the book *The Skin of the Earth* : a collection of investigative models , narrative architecture, and other architectural projects. *Second Skin* published by Monacelli Press (NY), this book will contain work developed with CHORA on new urban planning methodologies.

DROST & VAN VEEN

Simone Drost studied from 1980 - 1986, furniture and interior design at the Academy of Fine Arts, Rotterdam. From 1987 - 1988, Drost studied at Architectural Association, London. In 1989 - 1992 he studied at Academy of Architecture, Rotterdam.

Evelien Van Veen also studied at Academy of Fine Arts, Rotterdam from 1980 - 1986 and later at the Architectural Association, London from 1987 - 1990.

Together, in 1992 they started the office Drost and Van Veen Architects. They have embarked on such projects as 'Tower for Glasgow' 1992, produced an urban design strategy, 'En Route' in 1995. Also in 1995, they were commissioned by Rotterdam City to produce the 2D + 3D study of 'Informationcenter Rotterdam' and designed the pavilion and landmarks for 'International Film Festival Rotterdam'. Currently they are in a limited competition 'Ateliers in Schiecentrale'.

WINY MAAS

Winy Maas trained at the Technical University, Delft. Maas also studied landscape design at the Rhslt in Boskoop. Before setting up an office, named MVRDV, with Jacob van Rijs and Nathalie de Vries, they worked individually for practices such as Lapena & Torres in Barcelona, Van Berkel & Bos in Amsterdam, Mecanoo in Delftand, the Office for Metropolitan Architecture in Rotterdam. In Berlin they won the European competition for a housing scheme. In 1993 they were commissioned to do the new head office of VPRO, the most broadcasting progressive organization in Holland. This building was inaugurated in early 1997.

Panel 3

KRISTIN FEIREISS

After her studies in art history at Frankfurt and Berlin, Kristen Feireiss became a freelance journalist for the daily Der Abend and the RIAS radio station, among others. She was a press spokeswoman for the International Design Zentrum and editor and board member of the Deutsche Werkbund Berlin. In 1980 she founded Aedes Architekturforum in Berlin, which houses the galleries Aedes West and Aedes East. Under her direction, Aedes has become a dynamic international center for debates on architecture and urban planning, for professionals in the field as well as the general public. Ms. Feireiss has curated several shows such as 'Berlin - Denkmal oder Denkmodell' in 1988 as part of the Cultural Capital program, 'Architecture and Utopia', commissioned by the city of Paris, Hans Plezig in the Centre Pompidou in 1991. Her career also includes several publications, workshops, debates, presentations, and visiting lectures in Germany and worldwide. Kristen Feireiss is currently the director of the Netherlands Architecture Institute in Rotterdam.

BART LOOTSMA:

Bart Lootsma is an architectural historian, critic and curator, director of the V.O.F in Boiling Phenomena in Rotterdam. He received his degree in Architectural History and Theory from the Eindhoven University of Technology. His focus was on the reconstruction of the 'Poeme Electronique', the Philips pavilion on the 1958 Brussels World Fair, designed by Le Corbusier, Xenakis and Varese. Bart Lootsma was an assistant professor at the Meisterklasse für Visuelle Gestaltung at the Hochschule für Künstlerische und Industrielle Gestaltung in Linz (Austria) and head of the department of 3-D design at the academy of arts in Arnhem (The Netherlands). Currently he is the Thesis Tutor at the Berlage Institute in Amsterdam, a lecturer at the

Postgraduate Courses for architecture and Urbanism (PAS) in Amsterdam and at the Eindhoven University of Technology. He is a member of the department of architecture of the Rotterdam Arts Council, chairman of the preparatory committee for Architecture International Rotterdam '97/'98 and member of the committee for architecture of the Dutch Fund for Individual Subsidies in Amsterdam. Bart Lootsma was an editor of 'de Architect' and of 'Forum'. He published numerous articles and several books, collaborated on films and curated several exhibitions on architecture, design and the visual arts, both in the Netherlands and abroad.

ROEMER VAN TOORN

Roemer van Toorn studied architecture at the Technical University, Delft (1989). He is a critic, documentary maker and scenario writer in the fields of architecture, urbanism, and culture. After his graduation he went into partnership with Ole Bouman to work on the publication "The invisible in Architecture" (London, 1994). Currently he is head of the history and theory program at the Berlage Institute Postgraduate Laboratory of Architecture Amsterdam. He writes for national and international publications. In 1996 he curate with Prinzgau/Podgorschek an art-exhibition with the name 'Bite into Water' (Hall in Tirlo, Austria, 1996). Currently he is working on a script for a documentary and book on 'Reflexivity in Film and Architecture'.

Panel 4

WIEL ARETS

Wiel Arets qualified as an architect in 1983 at the Eindhoven University of Technology. In 1986, with Joost Meuwissen and others he founded 'Wiederhall' a magazine which became a platform whereby theory, project history, and personal interpretation work together. 1981 he collaborated with Wim van der Bergh and William Graatsma to publish a monograph on the Limberg architect Pluntz (1901 - 1966) and organized a retrospective of his work.

BEN VAN BERKEL

Ben van Berkel trained in interior architecture at the Rievelt Academy. Later he studied at the London Architectural Association, where he qualified in 1987. In 1988 he collaborated with art historian Caroline Bos (born 1959) to open an office in Amsterdam. Van Berkel and Bos projects range from

furniture, decoration and architecture to town planning and even major infrastructure works. The office also publishes article concerning architectural theory and criticism, some of which are grouped in 'Delinquent Visionaries' (Rotterdam, 1993). In 1994, they also produced a book 'Mobil Forces'. in 1992 they produced a project for Co-Center at Nijkerk.

LARS SPUYBROEK

Lars Spuybroek graduated at the Technical University , Delft, before teaming up with Maurice Nio in 1990 to found the Nox agency in Rotterdam. Unlike traditional architects' studio, Nox is more a firm specializing in various media forms, including architecture. Nox and Spuybroek produced the review 'Nox-magazine', made videos (Soft Cities, 1992), done diverse installations and written articles. (Spuybroek is an editor of the review 'Forum'). Their first building commissions have come from world publishers (head office of 1001, Amsterdam, 1993), video producers (interior layout for Vbc, Amstredam, 1992), and galleries (entrance of V2, Rotterdam, 1994).

TON VENHOEVEN

Ton Venhoeven is a graduate of the Technical University, Delft. He began studying typologies of social housing. In 1989, with a number of colleagues he set up the Duivenbode de Jong en Venhoeven agency, based in both Rotterdam and Amsterdam. 1995 he set up Venhoeven C.S. which is without doubt the most anarchist practice in the Netherlands.

Poldergeist

Why is there so much happening in Dutch architecture and urbanism at this moment? There is no reason to believe that there is more talent in Holland than anywhere else. Ofcourse, there is a very strong tradition of national planning, urbanism and architecture -notably in the field of social housing- in Holland, which is quite different from most other countries. But exactly in this field there have been some enormous changes. Since a couple of years, social housing is no longer subsidized by the state, which means that the state is losing control over the production of social housing. The market forces are becoming more and more important because of this and also because of the European and global economical developments that affect all countries -and particularly a small country like Holland. Also, there is a strong political tendency towards deregulation, that has to do with both political forces from inside Holland and from the need to adapt to European laws as a result of the EEC. The state withdraws itself. Holland has to reshape itself from a nation state towards a region in Europe that can compete with other regions. The democratization process in society and a change in the legal system result in a different kind of laws, more based on jurisprudence than on law making. The whole system of building regulations has recently been changed and has become much more complex than it was before. Than, there is the need to build 800.000 to 1.000.000 houses until the year 2005 in this new political, economical and legal context in a country that is already quite congested and in which more than 70% of the built environment is constructed after the second world war and that already has a population density that is the same as in Japan. It is clear to everyone that all this will change the country radically.

All these changes have taken place within just a few years. And, just as in other countries where there have been political changes, like Barcelona in the post-Franco era, Basel, Berlin and Vienna after the disappearance of the iron curtain, this results in a revival of architecture and urbanism or at least in changes in that field. So, in the case of Holland, these changes have not so much to do with Dutchness, although one might add that the Dutch economy is quite strong at the moment. They have to do with the desire or the need to reposition and adapt the country towards the European Community and towards global political and economical developments. The only Dutch aspect about this is the fact that it is still the national parliament that decides about the laws within the borders of the country, even if it is an adaptation to the laws outside.

The somewhat older Dutch architects, from the generation that is in their forties and fifties, has always understood their task as being critical towards this kind of changes. They strongly believed in the autonomy of architecture as a cultural bullwark of resistance towards these changes. They have great difficulty with the recent changes, whereas the younger generation that is presented here at this symposium sees it as a challenge. With a kind of masochist pleasure they dive into the new regulations and find the opportunities and potentials that are hidden in the new system.

In that sense, because the changes that have taken place in Holland so rapidly, and because these changes are in fact of a global nature, their work is not necessarily Dutch, but Holland can be seen as a case study, a laboratory for a new mentality, for new architectural and urbanistic solutions that have a broader importance.

